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1. The management of MEZ (Moravske elektrotechnicke zavody - Moravian Electrotechnical Enterprises) at Krompachy (R49/E06), which name will probably be retained, has not yet been formed. It is most probable that the enterprise will be annexed to Tesla, or perhaps combined with Krivan CKD (Siemens) in Bratislava (P49/X99) and Electropraga at Dolni Kubin (Q50/X91), the three installations thereby comprising a single unit. Until 1948 MEZ - Krompachy was a branch factory of the MEZ Electrical Supplies and Equipment Factory in Brno (P50/M40). However, there are actually two enterprises at Krompachy: an old reconstructed but abandoned ironworks (later converted to copper) which is now inoperative, and the new MEZ plant. This extravagant situation is representative of a very expensive but common compromise between state planning and local interests.
2. The Krompachy area is a former Slovincy mines ironworks center. The outlines of the remains of the mill, the forge and the furnaces of the past century can still be seen. However, the old ironworks have not been in operation since 1921. The ore which was produced here contained considerable quantities of copper, and the waste heaps left from former operations, which amount to about 500,000 tons, contain approximately 0.8 to 1.2 percent copper and 25 to 35 percent iron.
3. From 1930 to 1935 there was an attempt to reconstruct the old Krompachy plant as a copper electrolysis plant, for which purpose Swiss capital was acquired. Mr. Duehrle, owner of the Oerlikon firm in Switzerland, invested in this project all the profits (about 60 million Kcs.) he had gained from supplying the Czech Army with 20 mm machine guns and ammunition. Other partners in the undertaking were Emilian Svec and Klement Ruzicka, former general manager of the CKD.
4. This project of Mr. Duehrle's was a complete failure as the result of the fraudulent designs of the manager, Fould. Fould purchased old electrolysis equipment from Austria, investing money thus acquired inadvisedly, and deceived the others with false analyses of the copper content in both the extracted

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ore and the waste heaps. He built a flotation plant at Slovinky (R49/E06), a blast furnace for copper, compressors used in dressing rough copper, and an electrolysis plant with a joint electric power plant.

5. During the war the plant was kept in operation because of the acute lack of copper in Slovakia, but the production never exceeded 1,500 tons per year. At this time the Slovak State established the price of copper at four times its world market price, which fact enabled the plant to continue operation. However, the retreating Germans completely destroyed Krompachy, leaving only the roasting furnaces and the magnetic roasted ore separator intact. Fire and an explosion completely destroyed the copper plant and electrolysis plant of the old Krompachy works.
6. Despite the opposition of the Slovak Planning Office, Slovak Deputy Minister for Industry Poverenik, the Area Mines Management and other high organs, the workers after the war were determined to reconstruct the plant. The workers' council secured the financial means through political channels and then improvised a blast furnace and electrolysis plant from the ruins of the former installations at a cost of 15 million Kcs. The improvised equipment, however, proved incapable of operation.
7. The Svit shoe enterprise in Gottwaldov (P50/021) was then requested to establish a factory for shoe-manufacturing machines at Krompachy to satisfy the workers' demands for an industrial plant. Svit at first accepted this project and incorporated the project in the Two Year Plan, but then cancelled it in 1947 under pressure from Manager Holy. In the critical period immediately preceding the coup, MEZ received orders to establish its electrical supplies and equipment plant at Krompachy.
8. At first MEZ was authorized to occupy and exploit the buildings of the former copper plant. Later, as a result of workers' demands that the copper works be reinstated, the workers' council and local political figures forced the removal of the MEZ factory to a new location, leaving the former plant vacant.
9. The new establishment occupies about 7,000 sq. meters and consists of light, one-story buildings equipped with skylights. A part of the plant is in an improvised wooden building. The plant was about 50 percent completed in 1949, and is strategically located not far from where a large power plant has been erected. Although it has no military significance at present, it could easily be adapted to military production. Its current production program includes electric couplings (spinace), cable joints (spoje kablu) and waterproof switches.

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